

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 29 and 34 have been amended. Claims 32 and 37 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 29-31, 33-36 and 38 are pending.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 29-38 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-46 of U.S. Patent No. 6,712,468. A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith. Accordingly, Applicants request that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 29-31, 33-36 and 38 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,106,119 issued to Edwards (*Edwards*). Claims 32 and 37 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 32 and 37 is moot. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claims 29-31, 33-36 and 38 are not anticipated by *Edwards*.

Claims 32 and 37 were not rejected as being anticipated by *Edwards*, but were only rejected under the double patenting doctrine. The subject matter of canceled claims 32 and 37 has been incorporated into independent claims 29 and 34, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 29 and 34 are not anticipated by *Edwards*.


Claims 30, 31 and 33 depend from claim 29 and claims 35, 36 and 38 depend from claim 34. Because dependent claims include the subject matter of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 30, 31, 33, 35, 36 and 38 are not anticipated by *Edwards*.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 29-31, 33-36 and 38 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: Aug 22, 2005


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on:

August 22, 2005
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